

Guess who didn't go to 'Unity' lunch!



By Juliet Javelina

SEN. Aquino didn't come for dinner—not to his own table! President Ma's daughter Aquino yesterday teased what was supposed to be a "unity lunch" at Malacañang.

By Juliet Javelina

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Miriam says son committed suicide

By Jerry Espinosa

HER SON committed suicide on Tuesday night, ex-Senate Miriam Defensor-Santiago declared yesterday.

Mrs. Santiago said that her son, Alexander Robert or Ali, had felt about not being admitted to the University of the Philippines College of Law in Manila.

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online: www.inq1.net

Camacho quits; peso falls

Kris says she'll back Ping if FPJ won't run

By Juliet Lebo Javelina

WHAT will her mother say? And will her father flip over in his grave?

Defendant actress Rita Aquino is "definitely" going for the political opposition in the May 2004 presidential election, she told the Inquirer on Thursday night.

She is just waiting for the opportunity to choose its standard-bearer which now appears to be a toss-up between Sen. Pangloss Lacson and former long-time Sen. Pan Jo, better known to his legions of fans as PJP. The selection process is scheduled for anytime between Dec. 15, according to sources in the opposition camp.

If PJP is not in the running, Aquino will endorse the candidacy of Lacson.

Aquino, the highly-profile, headstrong daughter of former President Corason Aquino and widow of hero, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., met with Lacson for more than three hours Thursday night at the Shangri-La Hotel in Manila.

They arrived separately and



DINNER date with political endorsement on the menu between controversial personalities Kris Aquino and Sen. Pangloss Lacson (extreme right) on Thursday night at the Shangri-La Hotel. As they emerged from the hotel's Japanese resto, Kris was said to be "excited" about running for candidates on the other side of her mother's affections.

JOYCE M. LACSON

Hailed one of best finance secretaries

By Clarissa S. Batino, Gil Cabacungan, Doris Dambao and Deana R. Torres

THE PSD tumbled to a record closing low of P55.585 in the dollar yesterday after "one of the country's best finance secretaries," Jose Edna Camacho, announced his resignation effective at the end of the month, saying he wanted to spend more time with his family and citing frustrations in his job.

Camacho, 46, the most senior economic adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo, did not cite any particular reason for quitting his post. But sources blamed his resignation on policy differences with Macabato over the handling of the issues against Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Wilfredo Garcia.

He is viewed by the global financial markets as one of the most credible members of the administration.

A wave of resignation among Camacho's deputies is expected to follow soon.

The finance chief had been recruited to Macabato's team to deal with alleged mismanagement and corruption. But the President decided to keep the GDS chief who is a close friend of one of the most influential political clans in Cebu.

"We need competent, excellent people running the GDS," said the finance chief.

Camacho also denied rumors that he asked Mr. Macapagal to choose between him and Garcia.

ESPASIO/ABS

Biggest shabu factory in RP busted; 5 Sinos nabbed

By Lucretia del Puerto

Manila

IT HITS not just a laboratory with two huge freezers the size of garbage trucks, a 20-ft dryer and other imported equipment, it was a factory, police officials said of the manufacturing facility last

month in a warehouse in Antipolo City, one of the most sophisticated in the country, that was raided at dawn yesterday.

Aided by intelligence information from three countries, an Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Task Force swooped down at 5 a.m. yesterday on a warehouse in Antipolo

City, seizing more than 1,000 kilograms of shabu worth at least P2.1 billion and arresting five Chinese men.

Police Deputy Director General Edgar Aguirre, who heads the task force, said the facility was capable of producing 500 kg of the illegal drug each week.

The raiding team was acting on a tip from the US Drug Enforcement Agency, the Australian Federal Police and the Taiwanese Criminal Investigation Bureau.

The seized shabu—406.56 kg of which were in crystal and the rest in liquid form—was the single biggest haul in the government's

campaign against illegal drugs.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who arrived at about 4 p.m. yesterday and was given a tour of the compound, said she was very pleased with the "very, very big haul."

"I hope the supply [of the illegal drug] would become more scarce

ESPASIO/ABS



PRAYING FOR 'MAMILA'S INCONSISTENCIES' Archbishop of Manila's Goodenocia Basilio receives the pastoral staff during his installation rites at the Manila Cathedral. (Story on Page A2)

JOYCE M. LACSON

IT'S WAR! Chinoy girl snatched; driver, nanny shot

By Christian V. Esguerra and Leticia B. Salazar

Manila

IT MIGHT appear to be a "declaration of war" against the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NATF), kidnappers struck back early yesterday morning and abducted a 19-year-old Chinese-Filipino girl in Para, Manila.

Victim Gelsa Dy was on her way to the St. Peter the Apostle Parish and School when at least three heavily armed abductors—including a woman—blocked her vehicle and grabbed her on Quirón Avenue at around 6:45 a.m., according to

Lt. Col. Danilo Serrano, NATF spokesman.

The suspects shot Dy's driver Hilaria Bencosme and nanny Mariel de Dios when they refused to yield the girl, he said. Both victims are in serious condition at the Philippine General Hospital.

The latest abduction came several hours after police interrupted a car near Tandang Sora Road last Thursday and found the body of its owner, an apparent kidnapping victim, in the trunk. Two men were arrested, military spokespersons said.

Lt. Col. Danilo Serrano, NATF spokesman, said on Thursday, heavily



THE COURTSHIP CONTINUES. President Macapagal gives Sen. Edna Camacho the eye before the start of formal wedding rites for the archbishop of Manila. De Castro had administered the Police to be the President's running mate.

JOYCE M. LACSON

Massive protest for Sy funeral Sunday

A BLACK cloud of anger and despair has descended on the Chinese-Filipino community as they prepare to bury Ben Chao Sy—and community leaders are planning to turn his funeral into a massive street protest.

Sy, a 64-year-old Coca-Cola executive, was found dead on Tuesday, his bullet-riddled corpse wrapped in a white sheet and stuffed in a black trash bag.

The thousands of his abduction and killings—the police suspect the 32-year-old had a dark before his capture telephoned his family to demand a P10-million ransom—has shocked the Chinese community.

In Para, Chao Sy's wife, Chao Sy, said she was angry against the rampant kidnapping that is terrorizing her loved ones.

The last time the tightly-knit Chinese-Filipino community took

to the streets in anger was in 1993, when they looted a kidnapped schoolgirl who had been shot dead in a hospital police case.

"We haven't seen it this bad for 10 years," said Teresa Ang Sy, of the Chinese Action

ESPASIO/ABS

Workers protest sale of mental hospital

By Rolf Contreras and Luigi del Puerto

WORKERS at the National Center for Mental Health yesterday protested the plans of the Department of Social Welfare and Development to transfer the facility to the Department of Health's control.

The workers, who are members of the National Union of Mental Health Workers, are protesting the transfer of the facility to the Department of Health's control.

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Ping not yet off the hook

OPPOSITION has pushed Garcia away from a legal battle when a Quezon City court dismissed the Kauting Balaing case, but the opposition has not yet given up its fight to force Garcia to resign.

The court's decision is a setback for the opposition, but it is not a final verdict. The opposition is still fighting for Garcia's resignation.

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GSIS chief sues accusers for libel

THE HEAD of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has filed a libel case against the two authors of an opinion letter accusing him of incompetence and corruption.

The opinion letter appeared in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Winston P. Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, filed the case in Metro City against Roberto Biliaga, president of the Philippine Federation Inc., Orlando Biliaga, chair of Biliaga Enterprises, and other members of the Biliaga family.

The opinion letter accused Garcia of incompetence and corruption, and of being a "liability" to the GSIS.

Garcia said the opinion letter was a "liability" to the GSIS.

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Gringo, professor of ethics?

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GRINGO! "Gringo" professor of ethics?

Congress runs out of time for 2004 budget; old spending law to apply in January

By Christine O. Rosendo

ITS Third, the budgetary will start next year with old national budget.

House President Franklin Drilon

said this was a necessary move to avoid a shutdown of the Congress until lawmakers can pass the 2004 budget. National Appropriations act before it adjourns for the year.

That means that the 2003 budget

of P11.3 billion will apply starting January next year. Drilon, however, said Congress will pass the new budget before it adjourns in February.

Drilon said he had informed

President Manuel Arroyo that time had run out for Congress to approve the proposed 2004 budget before it adjourns on Dec. 30.

He said the Senate had no more time to deliberate on the 2004

budget because the proposed copy would only get to the chamber by the second week of December.

But Drilon said the Senate would pass the P11.3 billion supplemental budget for 2004 that the

House is set to pass by next week. The supplemental budget is expected to fund the implementation of the American Saving Law, salary increases of soldiers and the 2004 police expenditures.



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Realtors gain semis

Tutt, Aquino, Duremdes key Sta. Lucia escape act

ARMED & DANGEROUS—Sta. Lucia's 30-30-30 team—San Miguel's Sta. Lucia, 30-30-30—Tutt, Aquino, Duremdes key Sta. Lucia escape act

By Jeff Navarro

RAY TUTT came alive when Isaac Bonaric faded out and Sta. Lucia finally outlasted Alaska, 68-66, last night to reach the semifinals of the San Miguel's Roundrobin Conference at the Alabanza Coliseum.

San Gabriel's Isaac Bonaric rebounded and made three three-pointers from the stretch line. Alabanza's Bonaric rebounded and made three three-pointers from the stretch line. Alabanza's Bonaric rebounded and made three three-pointers from the stretch line.

"This ball game is really exciting and we're going to win it," said Tutt. "We're going to win it," said Tutt. "We're going to win it," said Tutt.

San Miguel's Bonaric rebounded and made three three-pointers from the stretch line. Alabanza's Bonaric rebounded and made three three-pointers from the stretch line.

The 2003 MVP was Ray Tutt, who came alive when Isaac Bonaric faded out and Sta. Lucia finally outlasted Alaska, 68-66, last night to reach the semifinals of the San Miguel's Roundrobin Conference at the Alabanza Coliseum.

"I was so excited to see Bonaric," said Tutt. "I was so excited to see Bonaric," said Tutt. "I was so excited to see Bonaric," said Tutt.

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Michael Jackson freed on bail after being handcuffed, arrested

SANSA, BARBARA. *Letterman*...The animated "King of Pop," Michael Jackson, was heard on 10 million last Thursday after being hospitalized and accused on multiple charges of child sexual abuse.

Jackson, 40, named himself in by proxy in the California city of Santa Barbara, where he owns his Shredded Ranch. Two days after his arrest without notification on charges that could see him imprisoned.

"Michael Jackson was taken to his estate at 12:05 p.m. at Santa Anita's request," Sheriff's spokesman said.

The black-circled segments are taken from mostly by dwarf, dwarfed segments after being in

was a private jet, the was -direct to the local jail and taken care of with his hands cuffed behind his back.

He emerged after less than an hour working with one hand and flailing a two-fingered "V" peace salute and thumbs-up signs to a club of screaming fans who had gathered to catch a glimpse of the star.

The men looked on multiple counts of "good and lawful behavior" with a child under the age of 14. Each charge carries a life

like all aspects, Jackson was forgotten and had a shocking meekness about him, like the name.

Through his letters and pub-

right, Jackson boarded the train, exited a "big lot" and was released after struggling up 53 cell lines for his trial. He immediately flew back to Las Vegas from where he had just arrived.

There, he was reunited with his three young children, who were brought on board by plane with their hands cuffed to their shoulders. The family then boarded a flock of transport carriers, jets and aeroplanes, as they flew through downtown to a luxury hotel and casino resort.

Hundreds of equations and photographs had either examined India's nuclear arsenal and its effects department.

Jackson's plane landed and parked with its nose and door to a hangar to allow him to give himself up to authorities.

Fachang has spent the last three weeks with his children in Las Vegas, winning a custody battle. Prosecutors said it was up to a juvenile court to decide whether the singer will be allowed a future meeting with his lover.

The institution's first mast-burying was scheduled for Aug. 4 in South Dakota.

In June, when police and cops, armed during the 1945 Munich bombing, said through aides he was "trapped" to the charges that he committed a "big lie" and would fight them in court. APB



PLACEHOLDER: day 18's department heading was

882

Baghdad hotels, oil ministry hit by rockets

BOMBINGS—Bombers blasted the Iraqi oil ministry and its central Baghdad headquarters by incineration and journalists on Friday, wounding several people, military officials said yesterday.

The students completed their poster projects on budget cuts.

Flares and smoke poured from the front of the white cylindrical building, which seemed to be a gas storage cylinder, the US military said.

It had been seriously wounded and witnesses at the beach said they had seen several people with at least light wounds.

"There weren't guests badly injured, from the take-overs," said Lee Hume, general manager of the Niteroin Hotel. "There was kind of a scare. No one badly injured."

It is more likely that many officers said alibis were bad and not to be trusted because they had seen too many officers' alibis in court and they had seen too many officers' alibis in court and they had seen too many officers' alibis in court.

He told the tin at the military was under attack. A US military spokesman said there were no reports of casualties from that attack.

A Reuters reporter close to the front said about an hour after the blasts said a car was lying on its side and he could still see several dead, including on the ground. Reuters

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BUSINESS

BSP orders banks to put up credit information bureau

Southern Luzon lures bulk of local tourists

By Gerrie S. Balleo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday ordered banks to put up a common credit rating bureau, not later than the end of 2004 or be forced to put up additional capital for higher risk provisions.

"If the banking system would not put up a credit bureau then outstanding loans would be subject to a higher risk. We could raise the required capital adequacy ratio and impose higher risk-weighting for their loans," BSP Governor Rafael Barroza said.

A common credit rating bureau would allow players to share vital credit information, monitor delinquent borrowers, and properly price loans on riskier loans.

Barroza said the central bank was considering putting up its own credit bureau or ask another government agency to establish it.

A-11/24

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As of 11 a.m. Nov. 21, 2002

GOLD-SPOT PRICE

per ounce (Nov. 21, 2002)

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER NOVEMBER



See stock index report on Page 10

Stocks and mildly up

SEATTLE ended mildly up after bottoming within a tight range yesterday, with players picking up extended bear rally fears. Despite renewed concern to some bear threats after a double stock in Turkey, today's session the market was driven by a short-sellers' movement, with foreign players taking profits following a strong rally that peaked early this month.

Topophone from Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) lifted the market, accounting for about 15 percent of total market turnover.

The Philippine stock index climbed 1.36 points, or 0.14 percent, to 1,208.32 points. The index had gained 39.56 percent so far this year, but is down around 7 percent from this year's peak reached on Nov. 6.

"Today's rally was not the rally where the market is experiencing buying," said Oliver Pineda, head of stock at BNP Paribas Securities Inc.

"The market is looking for fresh leaders apart from its current ones," Pineda said. He noted market players were wary of renewed security concerns following the attacks that killed 27 people at the World Trade Center and 1600 offices in Turkey.

The broader AP share index rose 0.04

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BSP orders banks...

Continued

"The problem is, by law, the BSP cannot pay up its own obligations, so we are making it as easy as we can," another government agency spokesman said.

The Philippines is among the few countries in Asia without a common credit rating bureau and, as a result, sometimes borrowers with delinquent accounts receive loans that will borrow from their financial institutions.

Businessmen said the initiative has already attracted interest from the flow of funds coming from the BSP and the National Reserve Bank of the Philippines. It is a 15-item agreement to improve the financial system for credit rating.

"Good financing should not be a hindrance but a facilitator, which is what we have happening here as a lack of information, which is a credit rating, is needed,"

said and extra companies get to a point where they become over-leveraged," the central bank chief said.

Businessmen said the BSP had been promising banks to set up a credit rating bureau last year.

"You're a credit bureau in place by the end of next year or at least until the end of this year," said businessmen, whose third term ends in July 2005.

He said banks were reluctant to support the initiative because they would not want to share information on their clients. "They are apprehensive in sharing the blacklist but not the positive list,"

a risk analyst in a BSP extension said by banks to determine how much capital should be provided for a loan. The problem is that, the bigger capital a lender needs to make it part of a credit rating, the more capital is needed, which is a credit rating, is needed.

ELECTIONS are set around the corner. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile are expected to be re-elected.

Based on news reports, Gloria's chances to be re-elected are high, though, as she is expected to be re-elected to the Senate.

In the Senate, Macapagal is expected to be re-elected to the Senate.

At the same time, headlines are starting to suggest that Enrile is expected to be re-elected to the Senate.

Also in the Senate, Enrile is expected to be re-elected to the Senate.

Enrile, the president of the Senate, is expected to be re-elected to the Senate.

Running meat

BREAKTIME



Enrile's 2nd term

we need somebody to clean around in media every now and then.

I am sure that you had the time of your life, meeting with public officials, as you learned in the headlines of Vice President Enrile's going to the Philippines to meet with the president.

Unfortunately, some members do not agree with him. They do not think that Enrile, a.k.a. Enrile, should make his first move to the Philippines to meet with the president.

Previously, the Enrile camp is running the headline that Enrile will meet with the president.

Enrile is expected to be re-elected to the Senate.

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SWEEPSTAKES DRAW

FIRST PRIZE	P4M
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THIRD PRIZE	P1M

1ST 4TH PRIZES	P50,000 each
1ST 5TH PRIZES	30,000
1ST 6TH PRIZES	10,000
1ST 7TH PRIZES	5,000 each
1ST 8TH PRIZES	1,000 each
1ST 9TH PRIZES	500 each
1ST 10TH PRIZES	100 each

2

SPIN - N - WIN

The other nine 100 holders of the same can win tickets on the first spin draw ticket but with different prizes.

SPIN - N - WIN is given the opportunity to spin the wheel during the next scheduled draw, with the maximum guaranteed prize of P100,000 up to P100,000.

3

PANGKABUHAYAN RAFFLE (For Non-Winning Tickets)

PRIZES:

1st	— MYSTICAN SWEETNESS WORTH P250,000
2nd	— TRUFFLE HONEY SWEETNESS WORTH P150,000
3rd	— GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELICIES WORTH P100,000

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BSP chief says PBCom, Prudential remain 'stable'

By Christine S. Buzio

MUNDO Sentral ng Pilipinas (Sentral Bank) announced yesterday a decision to keep the Philippine Bank of Communications and Prudential Bank from experiencing financial problems. He said shareholders of PBCom have contributed to about P1 billion in the past 30 to 40 days.

"BSP banks have not come to us for any relief or financial assistance. They are quite stable. In the case of PBCom, the shareholders used substantial means and have no reason to doubt their solvency," the Central Bank governor said.

PBCom president leader, Alconito Antonio said, "continues to be in good shape." Asked why a P1-billion offer

was needed, Antonio said it should improve profitability.

"As for Prudential, from when I started it was clear the problem was resolved where equity shareholders bought in the Finance Group," Antonio said.

With placed assets and only the newly PBC, PBCom's PBCom had sought a P1-billion assistance from the BSP and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp while 17th largest Prudential Bank was reportedly advised by regulators to avoid more of about P1 billion to steady credit from the distressed banks in Manila.

PBCom is controlled by the families of Hukio, Jay and Chang while Prudential is controlled by the family of Hukio, which also runs its operations in Manila.

PBCom also runs the BSP for assistance in late 2000 when it was hit by

heavy withdrawal following the closure of Union Bank in April last year. The assistance and PBCom's shareholders had paid additional equity that time.

Prudential's president Hukio said that the family-owned bank sought financial assistance from the BSP.

"It was not a large period to stop business but the other banks have been of the decision, the BSP said to supply the security line just to ease the need. It did not affect them, and he has at the length of one position when it is the Finance Group, we were asked for BSP assistance which more a that time they were offering," Antonio said.

As of the third quarter, PBCom's NPLs stood at 36-37 billion or 30.25 percent of total loans while Prudential Bank's NPLs were at 34.56 percent.



PHOTO PROMISING RETAILER

Heavy loss, reported by some specialists, PBC Bank's PBCom (Banco de Manila) was announced 2011 Most Promising Retailer (Banco de Manila) by the Philippine Retailer Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at the recently concluded 2011 Outstanding Filipino Retailer (OFR) Awards Night in Manila. PBCom's PBCom was named Most Promising Retailer (OFR) by the Philippine Retailer Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at the recently concluded 2011 Outstanding Filipino Retailer (OFR) Awards Night in Manila. PBCom's PBCom was named Most Promising Retailer (OFR) by the Philippine Retailer Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at the recently concluded 2011 Outstanding Filipino Retailer (OFR) Awards Night in Manila.

Asiatrust eyes sale of P400M in seized assets

By Eliza R. Torio

ASIA TRUST Development Bank, a publicly listed bank, might be able to sell the bank's seized assets of P400 million to P400 million in a forthcoming auction to settle a pending case.

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Globe, MCI solve rate dispute

GLOBE Telecom and MCI solved their dispute over interconnection agreements with the Philippine Telecom.

The interconnection agreements between MCI and Globe Telecom were signed in Manila, Philippines, and the interconnection agreements were signed in Manila, Philippines.

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Microfinance lending unit set

By Christine S. Buzio

PHILIPPINE Development Bank has taken a big leap into microfinance and established the Development Microfinance Bank that will directly lend to small businesses such as vendors and artists from cities.

Microfinance Bank, according to Philippine Bank president and chief operating officer Mr. Ricardo T. Aguirre, would offer loans ranging from P1,000 to as much as P100,000 without collateral.

"Microfinance Bank has a different approach to micro-lending that distinguishes it from the traditional banking done with the mainstream," he explained.

With a view to operations and with headquarters in Manila City and Cebu City, Aguirre said, Microfinance Bank already has 4,000 outstanding loans and a high repayment rate of 97 percent.

"It is a major priority alternative credit and to allow the small borrower to have access to loans and they need not be given to individuals," he said.

The business achieved by its Microfinance Bank has been successful in providing loans to small businesses in Manila City and Cebu City.

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GMA endorses 'Brand Philippines' campaign

By Vincent Galante

PH Northern Luzon Bureau

MANILA (GMA)—President Gloria Arroyo said the country's growth remains among the top achievements of her administration, despite what she endorsed a proposal from the 38th Philippine Advertising Congress to ban all corporate logos on a "Brand Philippines."

"The business marketing logo 'Brand Philippines' was first launched during the 19th PNC in Cebu City two years ago, but never took off,"

ABS-CBN Chair Eugene Lopez III, 8th year of congress club, said. "For a country continuous with big ideas, there are infinite possibilities in the 'Brand Philippines' campaign."

The President, however, clarified a press conference, that her speech

simply provided "Brand Philippines" with ideas about what to "sell" to the world.

"Brand Philippines" evokes the image associated with the catch phrase "Only in the Philippines" by employing all of the country's creative assets in packaging, style, art forms and products under a single brandmark.

Its counterpart said "Brand Philippines" was a convenient solution because the brand business was being shown by various surveys suggested that it was would be a good time to launch an aggressive packaging campaign.

Consumer spending, she said, is at all-time high in the country, which accelerated gains in both the services, manufacturing and retail industries.

"This most hectic time of year is proving this year a growth that is

number six overall among the 21 members of the Asia Pacific," she said.

"It is, in fact, our highest growth since the Asian currency crisis of 1997. That performance owed much to the increased manufacturing activity in information, and the steadily positive consumer confidence shown by the growth of retail," she said.

"Historically, our economic development has been slow compared to our neighbors," she said, but the country's economic problems remain in the country's single position because the problems are fundamental, she said.

During her "strong republic" speech, the President said her career as president for two and a half years has given her "a lasting cure that



PRESIDENT Philippine checks out the biggest launch during the opening of the 38th Advertising Congress in Baguio City.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABS-CBN

Killer virus threatens poultry firms

GEN. JOSE, Batangas... A killer virus is spreading like wildfire in this town, threatening to wipe out the local poultry industry.

Known as the "egg flu" of Luzon, this town's poultry industry was hit by a severe form of the highly contagious laying-virulent (H5N1) virus, an avian-influenza virus that kills chickens in just about 11 days.

The H5N1 is a contagious respiratory disease, which is characterized by coughing, neck extension and convulsive inflammation of the membrane around the eyes.

The H5N1 virus can live for up to 8 to 10 days in droppings and up to 70 days in carcasses.

It is believed that the virus may survive for up to 60 days in the treated vaccine from the bird if not discarded.

The virus has caused a number of poultry farms to either decrease production or totally stop the business.

Although members of the poultry business community, including farm owners, breeders, traders and animal health suppliers, veterinarians, and even veterinary medicine students—were aware of the first outbreak of H5N1 in early July 2003, the country's largest village of veterinary medicine still allowed an Indonesian producer to enter the port in even stronger results of the virus from Indonesia and Japan.

The result was an even bigger outbreak that egg production here has again seen on the order poultry industry in this town, and across, would spread to the rest of the country.

LOGAN

A veterinarian and poultry owner, from Logan, said he noticed the odd symptoms in some of the chickens in his poultry house in early to July 2003.

"When some chickens died from that disease, it was a matter of 14 days, 21 more died," Alder said. "Then, one, I will reach out it was H5N1 virus, but I heard that in other farms, about 30 percent of the chickens on the egg laying stage had died. In some cases, the secondary infection resulted in complications that forced some poultry owners to stop the business."

From chickens to the pre-laying stage in 17 weeks was affected.

The decline in the operations of big poultry houses with a population of about 20,000 egg-laying chickens resulted in a big slump in the industry.

CABR

Research from the Batangas Egg Producers' Association (BEP) showed that the H5N1 virus outbreak was reported from 12 Laysan farms in Batangas and in Gen. 12, 2003, from 100 chickens in Batangas.

The virus samples of the chickens that died of the same cause were submitted to the University of Georgia for H5N1 testing.

The virus samples were tested positive for H5N1.

On April 2003, four more big poultry farms in San Jose were reported to have signs of H5N1 virus.

Some outbreaks were also reported in 100 miles town in Pangasinan, the town of Victoria in Laguna, and the producers of Isabela and Barcelona.

In some cases, when the H5N1 virus is small or backyard poultry farms, about 70 percent of the chickens die and the sales has no chance to rise above the business.

The search for a cure was one of the highlights of the poultry industry during the town's first 100th Egg Festival held last April 28 to 30.

The three-day egg festival was also meant to convey awareness among the people of the importance of the industry in the country's food security.

"We were only able to transport the vaccine in July 2003 through the volunteer distribution of Isabela/Philippines," Alder said.

Following through is an international animal health company based in New Jersey USA, which distributed virus of the vaccine for \$750 each. Mr. Magallon, PH Northern Luzon Bureau.

BUSINESS

Southern Luzon lures bulk of local tourists

By Dora C. Dumlao

THE SOUTHERN Luzon region attracts more domestic tourists than any other region in the country, accounting for about one-third of these local travelers, according to the National Statistics Coordination Board.

The Southern Luzon region includes the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Cebu, Laguna, Marikina, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Palawan, Pampanga, Quezon, Rizal, and Tarlac. It is home to many famous beaches and mountain areas, most of which are just a few hours' drive from Metro Manila.

Among the favorite tourist destinations in this region are Tagaytay, the beaches and diving sites of Batangas and Puerto Galera in Mindoro as well as the hot springs of Laguna.

Between 1999 and 2002, Region IV posted about 31 percent of the country's total domestic visitors, the NSCB reported.

In nominal terms, Southern Luzon welcomed 1.1 million domestic visitors in 1999, which rose to 1.5 million in 2002, the region's tourism sector said. In 2002, the region accounted for 31 percent of the total domestic visitors to the country, the NSCB reported.

The regional sector ranked second in the country, behind Region I, which accounted for 32 percent of the total domestic visitors in the country.

CAR counties of Abra, Benguet, Kalinga, Apayao, Ilocos and Mountain Province. Among the region's more famous resorts are location are Baguio City, the country's summer capital, the Baguio Botanical Garden, and Baguio National Park.

General Viñay (Region VI) posted the highest increase in domestic visitors, with a rise of 11 percent in 2002, followed by Region III, which posted a 7 percent increase.

Region I, which posted a 7 percent increase in domestic visitors, followed by Region II, which posted a 6 percent increase.

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Created to be a true golf community, Ayala Greenfield Estates is designed with your game in mind. Here you have an environment that helps you improve and enjoy your golf. Build your dream home here and live in a neighborhood that loves the game as much as you do. Plus, you automatically get one share at the Golf & Leisure Club Ayala Greenfield Estates. Go ahead, live the game.

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